Historic Neelakantheswar temple in Papadahandi region of Orissa

2290. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the historic Neelakantheswar temple in Papadahandi region of Orissa is completely neglected;

(b) whether it is a fact that no archaeological survey has been made in this area; and

(c) If so, what action Government propose to take to develop this historic monument to serve as a tourist centre in this region?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Neelakantheswar temple in Papadahandi Region of Orissa is not a centrally protected monument. The Orissa State Archaeology Department has undertaken archaeological survey of the temple and based on this, the temple has been protected and conservation works undertaken.

No proposal has been received from the State Government of Orissa for developing the temple as a tourist centre.

Shifting of grave of Bahadur Shah Zafar

†2291. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been to shift the burial of Bahadur Shah Zafar the last Mughal Emperor and a leading soldier of the 1857 war againt the Britishers from Rangoon to the Red Fort;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Myanmar has been contacted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bahadur Shah Zafar Memorial Society in 1949 proposed that

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.